

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1259

USDEL JEC PARIS

JCRC LIAISON SAIGON

UNCLAS SAIGON 15655

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MOPS VS

SUBJECT: ADDA GRAVE-CLEARING PROJECT IN HUE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FM AMCONSUL DANANG RECEIVED DEC 19, 1974
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE

UNCLAS DANANG 0735

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJ: ADDA GRAVE-CLEARING PROJECT IN HUE

1. THE HUE OFFICE OF THE AGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DANANG AREA IN CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN THE SECOND PHASE OF A PROJECT
TO CLEAR THE CITY OF SCATTERED GRAVES AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE
REMAINS IN PROPER CEMETERIES. MOST OF THE BODIES BEING
MOVED DATE FROM TET 1968.

2. ADDA AUTHORITIES IN HUE HAVE TOLD A CONSULATE GENERAL
POLITICAL OFFICER THAT PHASE I OF THE GRAVE-CLEARING PROJECT
WAS CONCENTRATED IN DISTRICTS TWO AND THREE OF THE CITY (WHICH
HAS THREE DISTRICTS). PHASE I EXTENDED FROM SEPT 3 TO OCT 4,
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1973. DURING THAT TIME. 351 BODIES WERE RECOVERED 9

3. PHASE IN OF THE PROJECT IS CONCENTRATED IN DISTRICT ONE, THE OLD CITADEL OF HUE. THIS PHASE BEGAN ON NOV. 4, 1974. ADDA IS WORKING FROM A LIST OF 307 GRAVE SITES PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES. BY DEC 16, ADDA HAD EXAMINED 235 OF THESE SITES, SOME OF WHICH CONTAINED NO BODIES AND SOME OF WHICH CONTAINED SEVERAL. IN ADDITION, 143 GRAVE SITES HAVE BEEN EXAMINED WHICH WERE REPORTED TO ADDA IN RESPONSE TO A RADIO APPEAL.

4. BY DEC 16, ADDA HAD RECOVERED 370 REMAINS IN PHASE II. ADDA PERSONNEL AND THE U.S. JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER ONSITE OBSERVER TENTATIVELY CLASSIFY THESE REMAINS AS FOLLOWS:

70 FETUSES (FROM MISCARRIAGES OR ABORTIONS).
154 UNIDENTIFIED BODIES.
42 IDENTIFIED BY NAME AS SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY OR CIVILIANS (THEIR REMAINS HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES).
15 FOUND BOUND WITH ROPE AND PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED.
89 FOUND IN NVA CLOTHING OR BURIED ALONG WITH WEAPONS, NORTH VIETNAMESE MONEY OR OTHER EVIDENCE WHICH PERMITS THEM TO BE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS COMMUNIST TROOPS.

AN UNKNOWN BUT SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED BODIES CAN BE PRESUMED TO BE THOSE OF COMMUNIST TROOPS, THE JCRC ONE-SIDE OBSERVER REPORTS THAT BASED ON THE NUMBER OF BODIES HE HAS SEEN BURIED IN NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY PONCHOS, 50 PERCENT OF THE 154 UNIDENTIFIED CAN BE PRESUMED TO BE COMMUNIST TROOPS.

5. OF THE 370 BODIES RECOVERED, THE FETUSES AND PERHAPS 25 OF THE 42 IDENTIFIED BY NEXT-OF-KIN DO NOT SEEM TO DATE FROM TET 1968. ALMOST ALL OF THE REMAINING 275 PROSUMABLY WERE KILLED DURING THE FIGHTING OF TET MAU THAN OR WERE EXECUTED BY THE COMMUNISTS DURING THEIR OCCUPATION OF THE CITADEL.

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